

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No authentic data on begging by young children and women is available. So far, 18 States and 3 Union Territories have enacted anti beggary laws to tackle the problem.

**Setting up of district rehabilitation centres**

2076. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up District Rehabilitation Centres for Physically handicapped persons in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of DRCs presently functioning in the country, location-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more such centres indicating the budgetary allocations made therefor during 2006-07, State-wise; and

(d) by when these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) DRCs were set up in the years 1984 to 1989 at the following locations:— (i) Virar in Maharashtra, (ii) Jagdishpur and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh, (iii) Midnapore in West Bengal, (iv) Bhiwani in Haryana, (v) Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, (vi) Mysore in Karnataka, (vii) Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh, (viii) Kota in Rajasthan, (ix) Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu and (x) Bhubneshwar in Orissa.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No new DRCs are proposed to be set up.

**Study on deliberately maimed beggars**

2077. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NIOH Kolkata is doing a study from the orthopaedic aspect on the number of deliberately maimed beggars in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata;

- (b) when this study has commissioned;
- (c) by when this study would be completed;
- (d) whether Government will help such orthopaedically handicapped beggars to get artificial aids and equipment; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for exclusively assisting Orthopaedically handicapped beggars under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDS/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme. However under ADIP Scheme, needy disabled persons are assisted in procuring aids/appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and to enhance their economic potential.

#### **Social security system for elderly**

2078. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state whether Government have any intention to establish a comprehensive system of social security for the elderly; if, so, the details of such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): Yes, Sir. The Government is in the process of bringing in a legislation to ensure maintenance, care and protection of parents and senior citizens.

#### **Cases of witch-hunting**

2079. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that witch-hunting is still prevailing in many States of the country;